

Senator SANTORUM's very cogent argument and presentation. This entire subject, I believe, is uncomfortable for all of us. But it is so necessary. Senator DOMENICI spoke about the great senior Senator from New York, and I say that because I have great admiration and respect for the senior Senator from New York, who is fearless and courageous in saying that this was infanticide. That is what this is—the killing of a youngster, which is absolutely unnecessary, when the AMA, the American Medical Association, has come out and said there is no reason for this procedure. What are we talking about when we move down this line and say that anyone can do anything, even where we have a life, a new and innocent life?

And so, Mr. President, I, too, say to my colleague and friend from Pennsylvania, we thank you for having the moral certainty and courage of not giving up and fighting to preserve the opportunity for those lives that have really come into being, to be what they can be and what they should be. When we talk about preserving the sanctity of life, there is no greater fight, no greater cause.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I say to Senator SANTORUM, for all you have gone through and all the courage that it has taken for you to do what you have done, I hope that tonight, by staying here a few minutes with you—and there is nobody else on the floor but us—you understand that we are very appreciative of your leadership and we are with you. We are going to vote with you, and we are going to vote with you again, until it finally prevails. I thank the Senator.

Mr. SANTORUM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New Mexico and the Senator from New York for their overly gracious comments. They have been in this Chamber a lot longer than I and have been fighting many noble causes, including the cause of life. They have served as tremendous models for me in this effort. I thank them for their terrific heartfelt support on this issue and other issues pertaining to life.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HUTCHINSON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1997—VETO

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise in support of the ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure and in support of the vote to override the President's veto. It is inexplicable to me why that veto occurred, and I think it is unfortunate and tragic. We have an opportunity tomorrow to right that wrong. I join my distinguished colleagues in praising Senator SANTORUM, the distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania, who has so eloquently put forth the case for banning this procedure and appealing to our consciences as Americans, as human beings, and as civilized people to end the condoning of this procedure in this country.

I think, as I listened to the Senator from Pennsylvania this afternoon, and as I recall the previous debates on this issue, I was moved, as I know millions of Americans were moved, as we listened to not only the logic but the moral persuasiveness of the need to ban this procedure. I think this evening, as I say those laudatory words about my colleague from Pennsylvania, it is appropriate that we say also that there are many in the other Chamber, the House of Representatives, who have fought this battle over and over to ensure that that veto was overridden in the House of Representatives.

I think of my friend from Florida, CHARLES CANADY, who is the chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee in the House of Representatives, who has so eloquently and so forcefully argued for this legislation and carried this crusade across this country.

I think of the distinguished chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who has come under such unfair and scathing attack in recent days and yet who has been, I think, the most eloquent and passionate voice for the unborn that modern America has seen.

I rise in defense of him and in support of Congressman HYDE this evening and appreciation for all that he has done for the cause of the unborn. On more than one occasion, as I served in the House of Representatives, I saw minds change and hearts change under the persuasiveness of his oratory.

It is my hope that even as we look at this very important vote in the morning, that, yes, there will be those in this body who will look deep within their soul, who evaluate their own conscience, and examine their own hearts, and that we might even yet see those two or three votes necessary to change in order to see this veto overridden.

It is often suggested in this debate that government should stay out of the abortion issue. But if the protection of innocent lives is not government's duty, then I ask, What is government's duty? Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "The care of human life—not its destruction, is the first and only legitimate objective of good government. Legislative efforts to protect the weak and defenseless are right and should be pursued." I can think of none who are

weaker, I can think of none in the human family more defenseless, than those who are but inches from enjoying life.

In fact, in March of last year, my home State of Arkansas joined a number of other States in banning such a procedure when the State legislature passed and the government signed our partial-birth abortion ban in the State of Arkansas.

This procedure is a barbaric, uncivilized procedure, shockingly close to infanticide, as has been so frequently observed on the floor of the Senate today. It is so close to infanticide that, in fact, no civilized country, no compassionate people, should allow it. Any woman knows that the first step of partial-birth abortion—breach delivery—is something to avoid, not something to intentionally cause.

During the last debate that we had on this subject, I quoted Jean Wright, associate professor of pediatrics and anesthesia at Emory University. It is a quote that I think deserves being said again during this debate. She was testifying against the argument that fetuses who are candidates for partial-birth abortion do not feel pain during the procedure. She testified that the fetus is sensitive to pain, perhaps even more sensitive—more sensitive—than a full-term infant. She added, and this is the part that is especially striking, and I quote her words as she testified: "This procedure, if it was done on an animal in my institution, would not make it through the institutional review process." And then she said, "The animal would be more protected than this child is."

How tragic that we allow that situation to exist where, in an institution of higher learning in this country, animals have greater protections than do unborn children.

So I am glad this evening very briefly to rise in support of the Senator from Pennsylvania, to rise in support of this override of the President's veto. As has been said, this is not about choice nor compulsion, it is about inhumane disposal of unwanted babies.

This legislation does not prevent a woman from receiving medical care or reproductive care. It does not overturn *Roe v. Wade*. It simply ends an unnatural and unhealthy practice that results in the loss of human life. We must help the helpless, we must defend the defenseless, and we must give voice to the voiceless.

I commend the Senator from Pennsylvania and my colleague from Ohio, who will speak soon, for giving voice to the voiceless, for standing up and defending the defenseless, and for helping the most helpless and most innocent in our society, the unborn.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. SANTORUM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I want to speak for a couple of minutes. I know the Senator from Ohio, the Presiding Officer, will be coming down and speaking.